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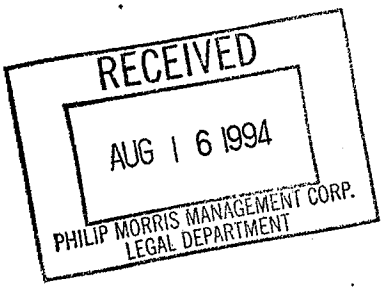

9th August 1994

Our ref: PAS/BJM/bp/33442
Your ref: PM 1522

Dear Charles,

Venezuelan Patent Application No. 92000917
Our file: 33442

We have been informed of and responded to an Official Action on this application which has been issued by the Venezuelan Patent Office. A copy of our response is enclosed. I am sorry that the term for response was so short that it did not allow for discussion with you.

The Official Action requested:

1) A discussion of the differences between the present application and the following applications:

   (a) EP0523203 Inventor: I. Steinberg
   (b) EP0450569 Inventor: A. Zambelli — cited in 1532II ✓ 4/6/93
   (c) EP0100590 Inventor: I. Steinberg

2) Delete the word "about" from all claims.

EP0523203 was found to be a totally irrelevant application. We reported this to our Venezuelan Associates and have since been advised that the cited document has the application number EP8404835 and was filed on 83/06/13. However, this application number also seems to be incorrect since it has one digit less than a European application number should and if it was filed in 1983 the first two digits of the application number should be 83 rather than 84.

EP0450569 has not previously been cited against this application. A copy of an English translation of this cited document is enclosed for your records. This document discloses a process which includes a pre-cooling step. However it does not address the problem of tobacco stability or discuss the post-vent temperature.

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EP0100590 relates to US4460000 which was also cited against our application in the US.

We have filed a new set of claims and a copy of this is enclosed. The claims are very similar to those at present on file in our corresponding European application.

As soon as we receive information about the third cited document we shall pass it on to you.

Our charges are being entered into your account.

Yours sincerely,

P.A. SMITH

Enc.

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